

^{FEMALE}
OLD Masonic Institute
NEW State School for Deaf
Talladega, Alabama
TALLADEGA Co.

HABS No. ALA-446

HABS
ALA.
61-TALA

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT no. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Auburn, Alabama

HABS
ALA.

61-TALA

Memorandum
OLD MASONIC INSTITUTE
Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: State of Alabama. (Mr. D. Hardy Riddle,
Superintendent.)

Previous Owners: Jos. H. Johnson. From 1858 to 1860.
Clinton Lodge # 38. From 1850 to 1858.

Date of Erection: 1850.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Present Condition: Good state of preservation. The three alterations to the original structure are as follows: The front hall was originally 30' by 30'; it has been made into four rooms; the front porch originally had two sets of steps, these have been replaced by one set of steps which extend across the entire length.

Number of Stories: Three and one half.

Materials of Construction: Brick structure with roof of slate and tin; the walls are supported by pilasters about ten feet apart. There is an off-set of ten feet in the center of the front wall. To the front there are six large Corinthian columns which rest on a square base about 8' from the ground. There is a narrow balcony with iron railings which extends across the entire length of the first floor. The interior walls are plastered and in fair condition; the floors are of 6" heart of pine flooring, and in good condition.

Additional Data: From 1850 to 1860 this old building was used as a Masonic Female Institute. In 1860 during the Governor A. B. Moore's administration the structure was bought and more money appropriated to construct other buildings that would be needed to operate a boarding school for the deaf and blind. Since then, with the exception of a brief period during the Civil War, it has been operated by the state as a school for the deaf and blind. The building was named in 1929, Manning Hall, honoring Frederick Manning, who served for thirty-four years as principal and superintendent. It was used during the Civil War as headquarters for the Union Army. The soldiers defaced the original columns to such an extent that they are replaced with new ones about 1868. The soldiers used the basement which is now the first floor to keep their horses in. The structure has twenty-one rooms. It is now used as the administration building, the Superintendent's home, dining room, and girls' dormitory.

Sources of Material: Guy E. Snavely,
Talladega, Alabama.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd and J. B. Vaughn

Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, 7/5/1936

T.T.W. Oct. 9, 1936